

## ANTON MAYER DIES AFTER LONG ILLNESS

Well Known German Citizen Passes  
Away Friday Morning At Home  
East of the City.

Anton Mayer, one of the leading German citizens and for many years an active business man of Terre Haute, died Friday morning at his residence east of the city following an illness of several months due to an attack of paralysis.

His condition at times showed signs of improvement but a few weeks ago he became much worse and since that time had been gradually sinking.

Mr. Mayer was a native of Germany and was born in 1842 in Wurtemberg. He came to the United States in 1882, coming direct to Terre Haute but remained here only a short time. He went to Cincinnati, O., where for eight years he was employed in one of the leading breweries of that city.

He returned to Terre Haute in 1890 and with Andrew Kaufman, purchased the brewery operated by Mathias Mogger. Later he became sole owner of the brewery which he kept until 1898 when it was sold to the Terre Haute Brewing company.

Upon retiring from active business at that time Mr. Mayer moved to his farm east of the city, but kept in close touch with affairs through looking after his extensive property interests in the business section and elsewhere.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Sophia Mayer, one son, Herman A. Mayer, vice president of the United States Trust company, a daughter, Miss Bertha Mayer, and two grandchildren.

Arrangements for the funeral have not been announced but the burial probably will be made Monday morning.

### Large Property Holder.

The deceased was one of the largest property owners in the city. Among his holdings were the Mayer block on Wabash avenue from the Trust building east to The Tribune building, and several stores in the middle of the block between Sixth and Seventh streets on the north side of Wabash avenue. He also owned several large farms and had completed a beautiful new home on his place east of the city but two years ago.

He was one of the chief supporters of St. Benedict's church and furnished a number of rooms at St. Anthony's hospital. Mr. Mayer was reputed to be several times a millionaire.

Possible Bio—

#### ANTON MAYER

Anton Meyer was born in 1842 in Wurtemberg, Germany, and as a young teenager worked at a small brewery there. He emigrated to America at age 16 and, after a brief stay in this city, moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he worked at a large brewery, eventually becoming foreman after learning the fine arts of the brewing business.

Upon the death of his brother-in-law, Matthias Mogger, Mr. Meyer, along with downtown grocer Andrew Kaufman, took over ownership of the Mogger Brewery and eventually turned it into one of the biggest breweries in the Midwest. He died a multimillionaire in 1920 and is buried at Calvary Cemetery, Terre Haute.



April 6, 2000 Tribune p. 10

# WABASH VALLEY

## PROFILES

*A series of tributes to hometown people and events that have shaped our history.*

### Anton Mayer

**E**migrating to America when he was 16 years old, Anton Mayer acquired his brother-in-law's Terre Haute brewery a decade later and transformed it into one of the largest and most successful businesses in the Midwest.



Born Jan. 12, 1842, in Wurtemberg, Germany, Anton was raised on his parents' farm. Before departing for America in 1858, he worked in a brewery in his native land. Though he first settled in Terre Haute, he relocated to Cincinnati to perfect his skills, serving as a foreman in a large brewery there. When his brother-in-law Matthias Mogger died of sunstroke July 13, 1868, while delivering beer to the local railroad depot, Mayer united with downtown grocer Andrew Kaufman to acquire Mogger's modest, but thriving, brewery at the Wabash & Erie Canal (South 9 1/2 Street) on Bloomington Road (now Poplar Street). At the time, Mogger's Brewery had an annual capacity of 2,500 barrels. Kaufman died in September 1869, and under Mayer's guidance, the business expanded dramatically. In 1878, a steam bottling works was added to the existing facilities. When sold to Crawford Fairbanks in 1889, the brewery occupied an entire block at the southeast corner of Ninth and Poplar streets as well as some adjoining properties, and was producing 2,500 barrels each month. Fairbanks and others incorporated it as the Terre Haute Brewing Company and it became the nation's seventh largest brewery.

Among the city's most affluent men, Mayer acquired considerable real estate in retirement. Besides owning several downtown business properties, including the Mayer Building at 709 Wabash Ave., he owned a large farm in Lost Creek Township (the present site of Woodridge subdivision) and smaller tracts on Fruitridge Ave. near its intersection with College Ave. and on Prairieion Road.

On April 29, 1879, Mayer wed Sophie Miller, also a native of Germany. For many years, the couple resided at 819 Swan St. where their children — Herman Anton, Bertha, Ida and Gertrude — were born. The family later lived at 420 N. Seventh St. Ida and Gertrude died in childhood. Anton Mayer died on Nov. 26, 1920, at age 78, at the family residence east of the city. Sophie died May 9, 1921. Bertha died on May 12, 1955.

Before his death April 5, 1926, at age 44, Herman was treasurer of the Indiana Savings, Loan & Building Association and president of the United States Trust Company, a predecessor of Terre Haute First National Bank. He married Antoinette "Nettie" Brinkman, daughter of John and Catherine (Kipper) Brinkman, another prominent Vigo County family, and they had two children — Hermine Mayer Cox Haslem, a Bryn Mawr College graduate and distinguished Terre Haute civic leader, and John Anton Mayer, one-time president of the Mellon Bank in Pittsburgh. Active supporters of St. Benedict's Church, the Mayers are interred at Calvary Cemetery.

TERRE HAUTE



NATIONAL BANK

(812) 238-6000

*Always Close To Home*



ANTON MAYER

Retired Brewer





Photo added by Wabash Valley  
Genealogy...

## Anton Mayer

BIRTH 12 Jan 1842  
Stuttgart, Stuttgarter Stadtkreis, Baden-  
Württemberg, Germany

DEATH 26 Nov 1920 (aged 78)  
Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana, USA

BURIAL Calvary Cemetery  
Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana, USA

MEMORIAL ID 26038232 · View Source



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Society Cemetery...



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(bio courtesy Terre Haute First Financial Bank)

### See more Mayer memorials in:

- Calvary Cemetery
- Terre Haute
- Vigo County
- Indiana
- USA
- Find A Grave

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**Created by:** Wabash Valley Genealogy Society Cemetery Committee

Added: 15 Apr 2008

Find A Grave Memorial **26038232**

*Find A Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 17 April 2018), memorial page for Anton Mayer (12 Jan 1842–26 Nov 1920), Find A Grave Memorial no. 26038232, citing Calvary Cemetery, Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana, USA ; Maintained by Wabash Valley Genealogy Society Cemetery Committee (contributor 46834757) .

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June 3, 2007 Tribune p. D5

## Contralto Edith Castle and other Vigo notables

Several years ago, this column considered the achievements of popular Vigo County native Edith Castle, a nationally-recognized contralto who returned to present daily performances at the third annual Terre Haute Chautauqua during July 1907.

Castle had relocated to Boston several years earlier to study at the New England Conservatory of Music and, later, in Italy.

She reportedly was the primary support for her widowed mother, Dorcas, and two nieces, Grace and Emma Hall.

Additional background information about Edith became public in early 1921 following the death of James W. Fagan of Fresno, Calif.

A former Vigo County resident, Fagan was married to Dorcas J. Hall. A daughter, Flora Edith Fagan, was born of that marriage in October 1872.

The Fagans were divorced in 1875 and James Fagan allegedly moved "somewhere in the West." The following year, Dorcas married Isaac Castle, a Parke County farmer. Flora Edith Fagan became "Flora Edith Castle" before she was 5 years old.

Since James Fagan apparently died intestate, attorneys for his "sizeable estate" sought to identify heirs. Fagan's friends in Fresno had heard that he had a daughter in Terre Haute who became a "noted opera singer in New York."

A crucial part of the inquiry was whether Edith had been adopted by Castle. No record affirming adoption was disclosed upon a record search in Vigo or Parke counties. Dorcas Castle's brother, Albert Hall, was a coal dealer at 10th and Poplar streets.

Hall told a reporter for The Saturday Spectator, Terre Haute's popular weekly periodi-

cal, that Edith often spoke of her desire "to find her own father" and wrote many places it was suspected he might be.



HISTORICAL  
PERSPECTIVE

MINI  
McCORMICK

Though Castle no longer appeared at major venues, she made regular concert appearances in Boston, sang in choirs and still was a voice teacher, maintaining a studio and residing with her mother and two adult nieces on Gainesbrough Street.

In January 1921, Terre Haute native Charles Minshall was elected to the board of directors of the National Savings and Trust Co. of Washington, D.C.

The oldest savings depository in the nation's capital, National Savings and Trust Co. was founded in 1866. The selection was unsolicited.

Son of banker-entrepreneur Deloss W. Minshall, Charles assisted widow Bertha Baur in the management of Liquid Carbonics in Chicago following the unexpected death of Minshall's good friend, Jacob Baur.

When Anton Mayer, Terre Haute industrialist and founder of Mayer Brewing Co. at Ninth and Poplar streets, died Nov. 26, 1920, his pallbearers included John G. Heintz, John L. Crawford and Frank Prox, all Anton's friends for more than 50 years.

Ironically, Heintz, Crawford and Prox passed away within two months of Mayer.

Matthias Mogger was Mayer's brother-in-law. When

Mogger died unexpectedly on July 13, 1868, while delivering his beer to a depot, Mayer and Terre Haute grocer Andrew Kaufman acquired Mogger's brewery. Kaufman died in 1869, leaving Mayer in control. The brewery prospered and, within a decade, became one of the largest in the Midwest. According to the Saturday Evening Mail, Internal Revenue Service reported that Mayer's Brewery sold 448 barrels of beer during January 1872.

Mayer was only one of several Terre Haute brewers in 1872. During the same month, Charles A. Imbrey sold 72 barrels of beer; Ernest Bleemel sold 57½ barrels and Easter Moses sold 25½ barrels.

During January 1872, Herman Hulman's Distillery manufactured 1,282 barrels of whisky. IRS collections for the Terre Haute district that month totaled \$38,483.49. Anton sold Mayer Brewing Co. and its facilities in 1889 to a group headed by Crawford Fairbanks and the name was changed to the Terre Haute Brewing Co.

In 1871, Warren Hussey, younger brother of Preston Hussey of Terre Haute - president of National State Bank of Indiana and its successor Terre Haute National Bank - was declared the wealthiest person in the U.S. under 40 years old.

At age 36, Hussey was said to be worth more than \$4 million. His declared income in 1871 was \$265,292.

The son of George and Mary Hussey, Warren was born near Terre Haute in 1835. He moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1853, working as a drugstore clerk before landing a job in banking.

He was a gold broker, mine owner and land agent in Colorado in the early 1860s. The profitable Little Emma silver mine of Utah was among his

assets.

In 1866, Hussey united with Charles L. Dahler to establish several banks in western states. Hussey, Dahler & Co. also opened branches in Helena and Virginia City of the Montana Territory.

Hussey and Dahler then organized the First National Bank of Utah in Salt Lake City on Aug. 17, 1869. Hussey was the initial president.

Most banks owned by Hussey and Dahler were victims of the Financial Panic of 1873. The Helena bank was sold to third parties. Hussey sold his interest in the other banks to Dahler and moved to Spokane, Wash.

Later, Hussey relocated to New Jersey and helped found the Victor Valve Co., manufacturers of valves, pumps and injectors, in 1908.

Warren Hussey died in 1920.

In other news from January 1872:

■ Dr. Charles Gerstmeyer suffered a severe compound fracture of his right ankle when his horse "took fright" and ran away, throwing him from his buggy. Dr. William H. Roberts headed a team of physicians which set the fracture.

■ William C. Buntin and William H. Armstrong formed a business partnership for a drugstore at the northeast corner of Sixth and Wabash.

■ Terre Haute clothier Philip Schloss acquired \$40,000 worth of Army clothing at a government sale in Jeffersonville.

■ Frank C. Donaldson and William Hugh Duncan were admitted to practice law before Indian courts. Donaldson later became the mayor of Terre Haute and Duncan became executive secretary of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce.



# Beer Bottles Reveal Story Of Terre Haute Breweries

By DOROTHY J. CLARK

Some time ago I received word of old beer bottles being found in the sand bars along the Wabash River. Mrs. Lucy Eno, Sullivan, Ind., wrote me of the bottle her grandson found with the name **PEOPLES BREWING CO. OF TERRE HAUTE, IND.** molded in the glass.

They were curious as to how old this bottle might be. Research revealed that this company was organized in 1905 from the Terre Haute Distillery & Cattle Feeding Co., which became the Wabash Distillery, a subsidiary of the American Spirits Manufacturing Company.



DOROTHY J. CLARK

Officers of the Peoples Brewing Co. before it was closed by Prohibition were: Chas. Murphy, president; Geo. Terhorst, vice president; Alva Mooten, secretary; Mort Hadden, treasurer; and Albert Kampe, superintendent.

Exactly when the first brewery began operation here in Terre Haute is not known, but in 1837 when hard times really hit and the State Banks were forced to suspend payment on their notes, 45 of the business and professional men here agreed that they would accept at par the notes of any Branch Bank, not of the Terre Haute Branch Bank alone. One of the firms that published the statement was the Terre Brewery.

Earlier history of that brewery is not documented, but in October, 1848, the **WABASH EXPRESS** announced that "the large brick brewery on the bank of the Canal known as the Terre Haute Brewery" would be sold by Demas Deming and Chauncey Warren, trustees

Terre Haute. He had been working in a brewery in the old country and for a while worked here.

The American method was far different from what he had known. He went to Cincinnati, the largest German city in the United States, and was employed there for nearly ten years, the latter part of the time as foreman.

## Mayer Returns

Well-grounded in the brewer's art, he returned to Terre Haute. With another brother-in-law, Andrew Kaufman, he joined in the operation of the remodeled brewery of Mogger. The story is somewhat complicated because of the absence of deed records of the first brewery of Mogger on the north side of Poplar Street.

In 1857, Mogger bought from the Christian Seaman a plot of ground extending from Poplar to Swan and 91 feet wide for \$300. Then in 1866 he bought from Seaman for \$2,200 the rest of the block between Ninth and the Canal. Somewhere in this interval or at the time, Mogger became involved with Adrian Bock. When Mogger was run struck on the afternoon of July 14th, 1868, he had mortgaged the property to Bock for \$13,000 in four mortgages.

In September Bock and his wife Emilie sold the property with the brewery, fixtures and all the personal property to Andrew Kaufman and Anton Mayer for \$12,000, the pur-

chasers to assume taxes and payment of the mortgages. After Kaufman's death, Anton Mayer, former brewmaster, became sole owner.

Opening with an annual output of 5,000 barrels of his product known as "Bohemian Beer," Mayer increased this amount to 20,000 barrels by 1880, the year in which the Terre Haute Brewing Co. was incorporated by Crawford Fairbanks, John Beegs and Demas Deming and began operation.

A tremendous growth of the brewery occurred during the presidency of Mr. Fairbanks. Prior to the advent of Prohibition, the brewing company had an annual production of about 325,000 barrels. Prohibition caused the resignation of Mr. Fairbanks.

## Bauer Directs

The Terre Haute Brewing Co. was incorporated in January, 1933. Active direction of the brewery's operation was assumed by Oscar Bauer.

"Champagne Velvet" was the trade name adopted for the beer under Fairbanks' regime. There are several explanations offered for the choice of names. One is that the "velvet" came from a term used for fine spirits in the distillery—the best of the spirits were called "velvet."

It is suggested that the "champagne" was chosen because the brewery made a light beer, possessing a champagne color and sparkle. An-

Continued On Page 7, Col. 6.



# Dorothy Clark

Continued From Page Four.

other possible source of the name is that it was adopted from a famed Dublin drink called "velvet" consisting of one part stout and one of champagne.

The old Kidder Mill at Water Street and Wabash Avenue had been a brewery before the Kidders came here from Michigan. At the southwest corner of First and Ohio was built the Easter Brewery in 1853. In 1878 the Internal Revenue office closed down the operation of this plant, and after six weeks allowed it to reopen.

Imberry's Brewery stood on the west side of Seventh Street north of Seacamore to the Canal. It had been built by Fred Berled who sold it to Frederick and George Burtisch of Indianapolis in 1853.

## Brewery Burned

George Burtisch was killed ten days later in a runaway accident, and the property went to Imberry. It burned in 1874, and the ruins stood for several years until demolished for the building of the houses that now stand on the property.

George A. Scott, Terre Haute's oldest attorney, told of seeing the great barrels rolled down the lot to load on the canal boats before the Vandalia Railroad was built on the tow path beside the canal bed. He also told how Terre Haute's first sewer was

T. H. TRIBUNE-STAR.

Sund

constructed in this canal bed in 1875.

A bottle with "H. BECKER" on its side was also found recently by a collector. Research revealed that in 1889 the City Directory listed H. Becker and H. Voges Bottling Works at 30 North 8th street.

In 1894 this listing had changed to 821 Walnut and was Terre Haute Weiss Beer. In 1898 the address was 201 South 9th and listing was just "Becker, soda pop and spring water."

If anyone has any information on early breweries, please contact the writer.

## WIDOW OF BURMA SURGEON SUCCUMBS

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mrs. Marion Seagrave, widow of Dr. Gordon S. Seagrave who became known as the Burma Surgeon, died Friday at George Washington University Hospital after a long illness. She was 64.

Dr. Seagrave, who died at his Burmese Hill Hospital last year, built the facility from a wooden shack in 1922 into a 22-building complex with 250 beds.

Mrs. Seagrave, a native of Clinton, Ill., went to Burma with her husband and a younger daughter in 1922 to found the hospital, the only medical facility for the 400,000 people in the area.

Mrs. Seagraves is survived by three sons, one daughter, seven brothers, two sisters and nine grandchildren. Graveside services will be held Sunday in Warrenton, Va.

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### Mogger Bought Brewery

It is possible that Matthias Mogger bought this old brick brewery, for soon afterwards, he was establishing his own plant at the Canal and Poplar, but on the "north side of the County Road near the bridge over the Canal."

The Wabash & Erie Canal took over as it came to Terre Haute, an older canal known as the Cross Cut Canal. This had been started in 1837 when the Wabash & Erie Canal did not contemplate building farther than the mouth of the Tippecanoe River and the only hope of transportation from Terre Haute would be by a canal from here to the White River near Washington.

Here it would meet the Central Canal that came down from about Peru to Indianapolis and then follow the White River to reach points farther south. All the permanent work done on that canal was the portion running from Broad Pipples to Indianapolis.

Matthias Mogger had married in Germany. Catherine Mayer, a sister of the well-known later brewer Anton Mayer. In 1856 Anton, a lad of 14 years, came to America and on to his sister in

## The Lighter Side

By DICK WEST

United Press International

WASHINGTON UPI — The Joint Committee on the Organization of the Congress was created last year to study ways of reforming the legislative machinery.

At last report, it had interviewed 181 witnesses in hearings that filled 13 volumes totaling 2,063 pages. It had received scores of suggestions on how Congress might improve itself.

It had, however, reached only one decision. It had decided to recommend a one-year extension of the Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress.

But don't get the wrong idea. I feel certain that the committee eventually will act with courage and determination. These things take time.

### Comparable Bind

In some ways the problem is comparable to that facing the

Joint Committee on Education of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures.

If this group becomes overzealous it might conclude that the committee itself is a non-essential federal expenditure.

The reform committee likewise must exercise a certain amount of caution. If all of the proposals that have been laid before it were adopted, there wouldn't be much of Congress left.

Among the more interesting reforms, in my judgment, was one advocated by Rep. Weston E. Vivian, D-Mich. It concerned a previous proposal that proceedings in the House and Senate be opened to national television.

"I suggest instead that we have a telephone channel available to every switchboard in the nation," Vivian said. "A person then could simply dial a telephone number to know just what is going on, to hear the proceedings live."

He did not make clear whether the callers would be able to reverse the charges, but that isn't too important. The fun would be in the



DICK WEST